

Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee Minutes of Monday, November 3, 2003

The Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee met on Monday, November 3, 2003, in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Municipal Government Center, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Members Present

Vice Mayor Mervin Jackson
Vice Chair Ric Knight

Peg Coleman
Sandy Kane
Gabe Kelemen

Town Staff Present

Calvin Grow
Nick Colonna
Mike Bomgardner

Citizens present

Craig Lane
Mike DeMonte

Mike Socha
John Mayer

Susan Horne

1. *Minutes:* On motion by Mike Bomgardner, seconded by Gabe Kelemen, the minutes of the October 6, 2003 meeting were unanimously approved. Ric Knight mentioned that Liz Whiting would not be attending the meeting and that he would act on her behalf as Vice Chair.
2. *Public Comment:* Craig Lane on the Sycolin Road, S.E. speed study and asked who's (i.e. jurisdictions) were responsible for making any kind of changes or improvements along this road. Ric Knight presented two petitions (one being from Heritage High School students) requesting that measures be taken to improve safety for motorists on Sycolin Road, S.E. and Evergreen Mill Road, S.E. (Route 621). One of the measures suggested was to post police officers at the intersections of these roads with Tolbert Lane, S.E.

Calvin Grow spoke on the traffic engineering studies prepared by the Department of Engineering and Public Works staff and an outside consultant that resulted in a resolution being presented to Town Council to lower the speed limit on Sycolin Road, S.E. from forty-five miles per hour (45 mph) to thirty-five miles per hour (35 mph). Other measures suggested by staff were: Ask for funding from Loudoun County to install turn lanes on Tolbert Lane, S.E. and Evergreen Mill Road, S.E., install traffic signals at the area intersections when they are warranted and funded, improve lighting in these areas and move the fence back on Sycolin Road, S.E. at Tolbert Lane, S.E. to improve sight distance.

Mike DeMonte, president of the Greenway Farms HOA, addressed the ongoing perceived speeding problem on Meade Drive, S.W.. He indicated that he would bring a large volume of residents to the next Town Council meeting on November 25th to request traffic calming measures (e.g. more stop signs and a raised crosswalk at Lawnhill Court, S.W. or Fairfield Place, S.W. Mervin Jackson suggested that Mr. DeMonte and he meet with Chief Joe

Price of the Leesburg Police Department to step up the issuance of speeding tickets throughout the neighborhood. Mike Bomgardner is going to give Mr. DeMonte data on all of the traffic studies conducted on Meade Drive, S.W. and conduct a radar study between 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM during a weekday evening. All of these traffic speed studies have indicated that the average speed on Meade Drive, S.E. have been around twenty-six miles per hour (26 mph) and have not exceeded thirty-one miles per hour (31 mph).

3. *Business Development Strategy Presentation:* Susan Horne, of the Economic Development Committee, showed a PowerPoint on this issue that can be viewed online.
4. *Report by Virginia Regional Transportation Association (VRTA):* Michael Socha, of the VRTA, introduced himself and John Mayer, Transit Manager for the VRTA. Greyhound Buslines employed John for many years. Mike spoke about the Safe-T-Ride program and of the kickoff of a new direct service on November 17th. Previously, there had been some complaints about drivers taking more circuitous routes through the area; thus causing longer delays in service. Rather than disrupting service between 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM, the new service will run from 9:00 AM until 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday, with no breaks in service. They will continue the Saturday service from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM and the Sunday service from 12:00 noon until 4:00 PM.

Mike Socha said that he would be updating their brochure (distributed to riders and businesses) to reflect any changes to the bus service and that ridership for the month of October was approximately 1300 passengers. VRTA is currently working on a “Guaranteed Ride” program to ensure that riders get where they want to go. He further stated that the drivers were given diversity training through Mothernet and that the drivers were provided pamphlets with simple commands in various languages to assist riders. Bike racks (usually two) have been installed on most of the buses.

VRTA will be changing their existing directional route signs and is looking to the Town of Leesburg to come up with their own shape and colors. Sign samples will be sent to Calvin Grow for review and VRTA will install the signs. Mike Bomgardner reported that the three proposed bus shelters were currently in preliminary engineering.

5. *Midyear Budget Discussion:* Mervin Jackson started the discussion stating that the committee had to come up with their priority projects in order to be considered for additional funding. Liz Whiting had emailed the committee her choices to be considered (i.e. extending the Bypass fence and the South King Street/Fairfax Street, S.E. median. When asked how much it would cost to extend the fence one hundred feet (100’) and northward to about thirty feet (30’) short of Edwards Ferry Road, N.E., Calvin Grow responded it would cost approximately \$55,000.00 and that the Town of Leesburg currently has a

consultant studying the pedestrian circulation crossing the Bypass. Mervin Jackson commented that a large amount of much money has been spent on South King Street construction and additional money spent in this area may not be worthwhile to pursue at this time. However, that issue is up to the committee. Sandy Kane made a motion to ask for the \$55,000.00 to extend the fence on the Route 15 Bypass to Edwards Ferry Road, N.E. Mike Bomgardner seconded the motion. After some discussion about the priorities of the committee members, Ric Knight called for the question and the motion passed unanimously with Ric Knight noting that Liz Whiting supported the motion.

6. *Committee member concerns:* Gabe Kelemen asked that she be made aware of any traffic studies being conducted in the northeast quadrant of Town, where she is the representative for the committee. In this case, the study is to investigate speeding on North King Street and the possibility of posting the area for \$200.00 add-on penalties.

Gabe Kelemen also informed the committee the Pedestrian Safety Workshop would be rescheduled for March of 2004.

Calvin Grow handed out Freedom Of Information Act (FOIA) information and roundabout information to the committee.

Sandy Kane and Nick Colonna spoke to the Turner Wilson proposal on Lawson Road, S.E.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 PM. The next meeting is Monday, December 1, 2003 at 7:00 PM. Staff is to contact Liz Whiting if anything arises needing Committee consideration in the interim.